

The Assessor's Office is responsible for discovering, listing and valuing all real estate and taxable motor vehicle and personal property in Suffield. The goal of Assessor Helen Tetz and Deputy Assessor Lisa Trase is to insure that the assessed value of individual taxpayers is proper so that each taxpayer pays no more than his fair share of the property tax. In order to accomplish this, we review information regarding all three classes of property for accuracy. This process includes conducting random audits of Personal Property business accounts, inspecting and listing new construction (as well as verifying any demolition of property), reviewing and updating tax maps, and maintaining current title information for all real estate parcels. The Department of Motor Vehicles provides the office with lists of all motor vehicles registered within the Town, and once each vehicle has been valued, these lists comprise the Motor Vehicle and Supplemental Motor Vehicle Grand Lists. All Personal Property and Motor Vehicles are assessed at 70% of the current fair market value, as of October 1 of each year. Real Estate assessments in the past fiscal year were based on values set for the 2013 revaluation, as provided by state statute. The next revaluation will be for the 2018 Grand List.

In addition, all state and local exemption programs that affect the tax bills of elderly, military, blind and disabled taxpayers are administered by this department and the exemptions are applied to the assessed value of eligible property. All of this information results in a "Grand List" which is an accurate list of all taxable property in Suffield and its assessed value. This information is the basis for the Tax Collector's tax bills. In addition, all tax exempt real estate is valued and declared in a separate Grand List, the value of which is reported to the State for various grants and reimbursements.

Various annual reports based on the Grand List are compiled and provided timely to the Office of Policy and Management, as mandated by the State of Connecticut, in order to ensure a proper Equalized Net Grand List that affects state grants and reimbursements.

